Results of the 2018 CQWW DX SSB Contest

"Once More a Wonderful Weekend Among Friends Doing Radio" – LU8YE

BY JOHN DORR*, K1AR

It seems almost impossible to believe, but the 71st CQ World Wide SSB contest is in the books. PY2AC won the SOAB (single-operator, all-band) category in 1948 with a "blistering" score of 124,068 points. In sharp contrast, the current SOAB record is now held by EA8BH (N5TJ op.), who stunned the contest community in 1999 with a score of 25M+ points and over 10,000 QSOs!

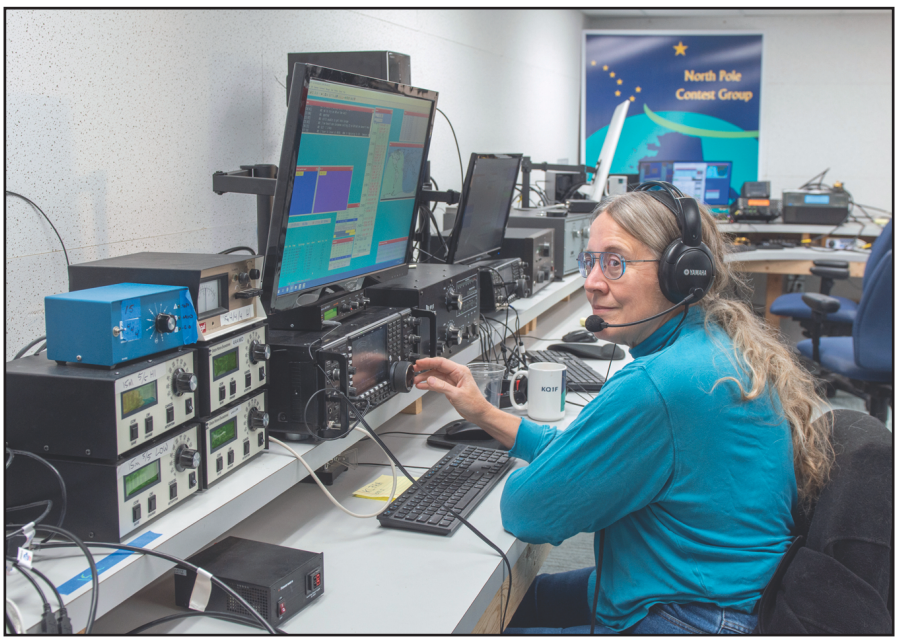
Of course, for us mortals, making 10,000 contacts in a single weekend not only appears to be unachievable, but frankly is unachievable for 99.99% of those who participate. However, the CQWW SSB contest explodes on the scene in late October and something magical happens. The relatively inactive bands that we are currently experiencing in this torturous solar minimum miraculously light up. Twenty meters becomes filled from one end to the other, 15 meters demonstrates it can still support global communications and even our unpredictable 10-meter band sports contacts between continents.

As it turns out, the CQWW singularly stands out as a contest for everyone — rookie, small pistol, or monster multi-multi. And, with over 38,000 verified stations active in this year's contest, you couldn't help but have a great time.

Some Amazing Results

A long-standing adage in contesting is that, "if conditions are bad for me, they're bad for everyone." Well, if you're looking through the lens of 10 meters in the 2018 CQWW, band conditions were horrible. Fortunately for all of us, the 160- to 15-meter bands were established a long time ago and our fun was rescued.

I'm always amazed at how close the final scores can be for certain categories, especially high-profile ones such as SOAB World. This year did not disappoint as the top three scores were separated by only 193K points. The win-



Charlotte, KQ1F, discovering that operating in the Arctic from KL7RA can be challenging on 15 meters.

What do you get when you combine 17 operators and a great station? 4,000 QSOs from SZ1A!

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ning score of CN2CO (RA3CO op.) and #2 P4ØT (VE3DZ op.) had a minuscule difference of only 21K or 0.2%. Yuri's slightly better error rate from P4 (1.3% vs. 1.8%) compared to that of Dimitri from Morocco nearly closed the gap, proving again how much accuracy matters — both for big logs and small.

Speaking of Morocco, the opposite result took place on the World Multi-Multi stage with the CN3A team crushing the competition from K3LR (who notably had a #2 World score this time) by a 17-million-point margin. That's the *margin*, not the score. CN3A had just over 31 million points while K3LR scored just less than 14 million. As a demonstration of poor conditions, the D4C Multi-2 group trailed their Multi-Multi CN3A brethren by only 3 million points.

It shouldn't go unnoticed that remote stations are increasingly joining the top ranks of contesting. This year, Ray, W2RE, topped the SOAB USA HP ranks while operating one of his impressive station options remotely located in Maine. This rapidly growing mode of operation continues to explode as we'll see next month in the CW results.

The CQWW is a DX Machine!

One of the attributes for which the CQWW contest is known is its global level of activity. The CQWW is truly a worldwide contest. 2011 was the benchmark year for DX activity with 282 countries worked across the spectrum of logs submitted. Think about that for a minute — nearly 75% of all available countries (as measured by the CQWW rules) participated that year. Yet, Ol' Sol has impacted us significantly in 2018, with this year's contest results showing a sub-200 total for the first time in over a decade. Of course, that makes multiplier totals in the top logs even more impressive as stations

2018 CQWW DX SSB TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR

World
CN2CO (Opr.: Dimitri Kryukov, RA3CO)
Donor: Southern California DX Club

World – Low Power
Ted Jimenez, HI3T
Donor: Slovenian Contest Club

World – QRP
Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q
Donor: Jeff Steinman, N5TJ

World – Assisted
KH7XS (Opr.: Bill Kollenbaum, K4XS)
Donor: Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

World – Assisted Low Power
P4ØW (Opr.: John Crovelli, W2GD)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

U.S.A.
Ray Higgins, W2RE
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club – KC8C Memorial

U.S.A. – Low Power
Ted Rappaport, N9NB
Donor: North Coast Contesters

U.S.A. – QRP
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT*
Donor: Pat Collins, N8VW

U.S.A. – Assisted
Kevin Stockton, N5DX
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – Assisted Low Power
Jim Bowman, KS1J
Donor: LA9Z/LN9Z Leia Contest Club

U.S.A. – Zone 3
Mitch Mason, K7RL
Donor: Northern California Contest Club

U.S.A. – Zone 4
Mike Wetzel, W9RE
Donor: Kansas City DX Club

U.S.A. – Zone 5
Ed Sawyer, N1UR*
Donor: Carolina DX Association – N4ZC Memorial

Europe
TMØT (Opr.: Gildas Ballanec, F4HQZ)
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club – W4BVV Memorial

Europe – Low Power
HG6V (Opr.: Imre Gulyás, HA6IAM)
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR

Europe – QRP
Karel Karmasin, OK2FD
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C

Europe – Assisted
Andrius Ignotas, LY7Z
Donor: Martin Huml, OL5Y

Europe – Assisted Low Power
TM3Z (Opr.: Dimitri Cosson, F4DSK)
Donor: Alex Goncharov, R3ZZ

Africa
Mario Xavier Laporte, FR4QT*
Donor: Chris Terkla, N1XS

Asia
UPØL (Opr.: Vladimir Vinichenko, UN9LW)
Donor: Nodir Tursun-Zade, EY8MM

Caribbean/Central America – High Power
8P5A (Opr.: Tom Georgens, W2SC)
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Caribbean/Central America – Low Power
Francisco Vassaux, TG9ANF*
Donor: Albert Crespo, NH7A

Oceania
KH7M (Opr.: Jim Neiger, N6TJ)
Donor: Barbara Yasson, AC7UH

South America
P4ØL (Opr.: John Fore, W6LD)*
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Canada
Jeff Briggs, VY2ZM
Donor: Contest Club Ontario –VE3WT Memorial

Russia
Sergey Chebotarev, RW1F
Donor: Roman Thomas, R5AA

Indonesia
Dra. Endah Winarti, YB3VI
Donor: Karsono Suyanto, YBØNDT

Japan
Masaki Masa Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Rush Drake, W7RM Memorial

Japan – Low Power
Nob Watanabe, JH1EAQ
Donor: Juan Carlos Munoz, TG9AJR

Southern Cone (CE, CX, LU) – Assisted
CB8E (Opr.: Luis Fierro Andrade, CE8EIO)
Donor: LU Contest Group

ASEAN (XZ, HS, XW, XU, 3W, 9M, 9V, V8, YB, DU)
Thanawat Nithisantipong, HS5SRH
Donor: YB Land DX Club

ASEAN (XZ, HS, XW, XU, 3W, 9M, 9V, V8, YB, DU) – Low Power
4E1A (Opr.: Klaus D Goepel, 4E1ADW)
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

World – 28 MHz
Marcelo Egües, CX2DK
Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World – 21 MHz
CR3DX (Opr.: Tibor Ferenec, OM3RM)
Donor: Robert Naumann, W5OV

World – 14 MHz
4M1K (Opr.: Julio Rivero, YV1KK)
Donor: North Jersey DX Assn.

World – 7 MHz
CT9ABP (Opr.: Ratislav Hrnko, OM3BH)
Donor: Fred Laun, K3ZO – K7ZZ Memorial

World – 3.7 MHz
UP2L (Opr.: Vladimir Umanets, UA9BA)
Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World – 1.8 MHz
NP2J (Opr.: Dan Flaig, K8RF)
Donor: OL7M Contest Group, QRO.cz, RemoteQTH.com

U.S.A. – 28 MHz
Chuck Dietz, W5PR
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – 21 MHz
Steve London, N2IC
Donor: 11 P.M. Dayton Pizza Gang

U.S.A. – 14 MHz
Peter Bizlewicz, KU2M
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club – KC1F Memorial

U.S.A. – 7 MHz
Dan Handa, W7WA
Donor: Chuck Dietz, W5PR

U.S.A. – 3.7 MHz
Steven Sussmann, W3BGN
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – 1.8 MHz
Stephen Werner, AG4W
Donor: South Texas DX & Contest Club (STXDXCC)

Europe – 28 MHz
George Charokopakis, SV9GPV
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Europe – 21 MHz
CR6T (Opr.: Antonio Rui Sousa Santos, CT1ESV)
Donor: Tine Brajnik, S5ØA

Europe – 14 MHz
OH8X (Opr.: Pasi Luoma-Aho, OH6UM)
Donor: Charles Wooten, NF4A

Europe – 7 MHz
Angel Turpin Guillamon, EA5SR
Donor: Central Texas DX and Contest Club – NT5C Memorial

Europe – 3.7 MHz
Ivo Jereb, S57AL
Donor: Ted Demopoulos, KT1V

Europe – 1.8 MHz
Lukasz Gruszczynski, SQ7CL
Donor: Robert Kasca, S53R

Caribbean/Central America (21 MHz)
Carlos Paez, TI1T
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

Oceania (21 MHz)
9M8YY (Opr.: Yasumasa Yagi, JR3WXA)
Donor: Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW

Asia – 14 MHz
Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M
Donor: Dallas/Fort Worth Contest Group – W5PG Memorial

OVERLAY CATEGORIES

World – Classic
P4ØT (Opr.: Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ)
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – Classic
Randy Thompson, K5ZD
Donor: www.BeLoud.us

such as ES9C (149 countries – 15 million points) and EF8R (151 countries – 15 million points) both worked a sizable percentage of them.

Year	# entities worked
2009	273
2010	268
2011	282
2012	259
2013	236
2014	235
2015	232
2016	224
2017	202
2018	199

Impressive Accuracy

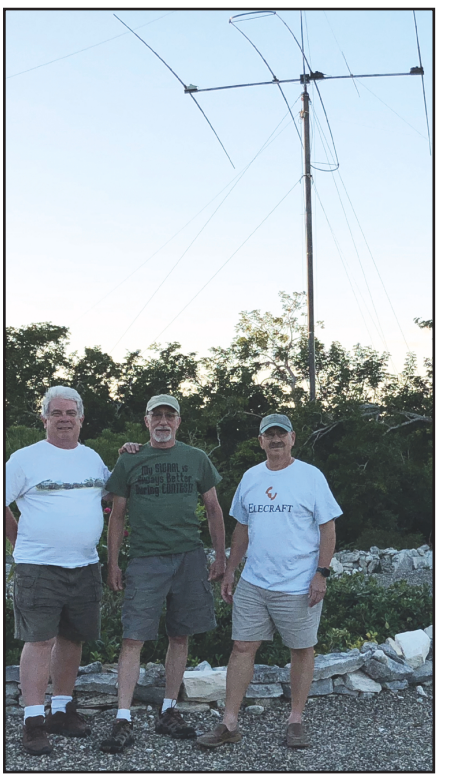
In the end, the most important job of the CQWW Contest Committee is to ensure the logs we receive are properly scored and that the results are accurate. Unfortunately, we also spend a sizable amount of time ferreting out those who choose to not play by the rules. Thankfully, however, the vast majority of CQWW operators do their best to submit accurate logs.

All being said, some entries truly stand out as being exceptionally accurate. Twenty of the best can be found in the following table , with KR2Q owning the distinction of having submitted a perfect "Golden Log." Congratulations to this group for demonstrating a strong commitment to getting it right.

Call	Score Reduction (%) (logs with >100 QSOs)
KR2Q	0.00
WA2FZB	0.33
UA1CUR	0.38
DL2CC	0.40
DF2RG	0.54
JM1NKT	0.55
R3OM	0.69
K2CYE	0.79
R7MM	0.87
N9NC	0.96
OH6ECM	0.97
N4PQX	1.01
DG5E	1.02
DK2LO	1.06
K9BGL	1.11
RZ6BR	1.11
DL7URH	1.16
DL1NEO	1.20
ON6LR	1.34
PY2EX	1.41

What's Your Category?

One of the most common areas of feedback your CQWW committee receives is requests for new categories. Some of them can be a little too specific (e.g., SOAB – North Korea) while others are often good ideas. Category proliferation



The VP5W team suffering in Zone 8 with a really loud SteppIR in the background.

Europe – Classic
GD9W (Opr.: Mark Haynes, MØDXR)
Donor: Steve Cole, GW4BLE Memorial

World – Rookie
Todor Todorov, LZ4AW
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – N8SM Memorial

U.S.A. – Rookie
Mason W Matrazzo, KM4SII
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – K3TUP Memorial

Europe – Rookie
Karolina Vaiciunaite, LY5XX*
Donor: EA Contest Club

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER

World
EF8R (Oprs.: EA8KW, EA8RM, I4UFH, KU1CW, R3XAW, RA5A, RC5A, RV1AW, RW7K, UA5C, UB6HLW, UB7K, UF1F)
Donor: So. Calif. DX Club – W6AM Memorial

World – Low Power
ED9E (Oprs.: EA9CD, EA9ACD, EA7KI, EA9FY, EA9ACL, EA9ACP)
Donor: Rex Turvin, NR6M

U.S.A.
K1LZ (Oprs.: W1UE, KC1CWF, N1RR, K3JO, YT6W, K1VR)
Donor: Carolina DX Assoc. – W4VHF and K4DXA Memorial

North America
VE3EJ (Oprs.: VE3EJ, VE3EK, VE3EY, VE3OI)
Donor: John Sluymer, VE3EJ

Africa
ED8W (Oprs.: OM5RW, EA8DO, EA7LL, EA7RU)*
Donor: Fabio Schettino, I4UFH

Asia
P33W (Oprs.: LZ2HM, YO3JR, R3DCX, 5B4AIF, R4FO, UA4FER, RW4WR, RA3AUU)
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

Europe
IR4X (Oprs.: I4AVG, I4TJE, I4USC, I4YRW, I4VEQ, IK2JUB, IK2NCJ, IK4UPB, IK4ZGO, IT9RGY, IZ4BOY, IZ4JMA)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

Europe – Low Power
4U1A (Oprs.: OE1ZZZ, RL5D, HB9RB)
Donor: EA Contest Club

Oceania
AH2R (Oprs.: JI3ERV/NH2C, JR7OMD/WI3O, JO1RUR/KHØG, JR8VSE/NH2N, JA1KSA/N3NQL)
Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America
9Y4W (Oprs.: 9Y4W, DK2OY, DK6WL)
Donor: Victor Burns, KI6IM – The Cuba Libra Contest Club

Caribbean/Central America
VP2MDG (Oprs.: AL7BA, K2DM, KA1AF, NØSMX)
Donor: Bob Raymond, WA1Z

Japan
JA7ZFN (Oprs.: JG7PSJ, JH7XMO, JI7GBI, JP7DKQ)
Donor: Arizona Outlaws Contest Club

ASEAN (XZ, HS, XW, XU, 3W, 9M, 9V, V8, YB, DU) – Low Power
E28AI (Oprs.: HS1LCI, ZL1DD, E24NQN, E22ZXX, HS5BQT, HS5WYM, E24OEE, E23GLG, E23WQS, E21IZC, E23WWT, HS5NFP, HS9YBR, HSØKQR, HS5YPD, E23WQD)
Donor: Bruce Frahm, KØBJ

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTERS

World
D4C (Oprs.: EA8FF, HB9DUR, IK2LFF, IZ4DPV, PY2EL, PY2LED, PY2WC, SQ9D)
Donor: Array Solutions

U.S.A.
K9CT (Oprs.: ND9G, KB9OWD, K9CT, WT2P, K9ZO, K9QQ, AB9YC, N7MB)
Donor: Kimo Chun, KH7U & Mike Gibson, KH6ND - Dan Robbins, KL7Y Memorial

Europe
ES9C (Oprs.: 4O3A, 4O9TTT, ES2MC, ES2NA, ES4BG, ES4NY, ES5JR, ES5QA, ES5RY, ES5TV, ES6QC, ES7GM, HA5BVG, ON1GPS, YL1ZF, YL2BJ, YL2KL, YL3AJA, YL3DW)
Donor: D4C Monteverde Contest Team

Japan
JE2YRP (Oprs.: JR2SCJ, JA1KFX, JA8RWU, JE8KKX, JF2XGF, JM1FHL, JQ1ABC, JQ1BVI)
Donor: Coconut Wireless Contest Club

ASEAN (XZ, HS, XW, XU, 3W, 9M, 9V, V8, YB, DU)
9M2CHS (Oprs.: 9M2RMT, 9M2WAN, 9M2KRZ, 9W2KMB, 9W2EXY, 9W2JAG, 9W2WGD, 9W2ERD, 9W2SYX, 9W2EPQ)
Donor: Champ C. Muangamphun, E21EIC – Siam DX Group

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

World
CN3A (Oprs.: IK2QEI, IK2SGC, OK1RI, OK1FFU, OK1JKT, OK1VVT, OM6NM, 9A6A, LY4A, IZ1LBG, IZ2ZOZ, CN8WW)
Donor: Dave Leeson, W6NL & Barb Leeson, K6BL

U.S.A.
K3LR (Oprs.: N2NC, N5UM, AA4WJ, K3LR, KL9A, W2RQ, K3LA, N2NT, K1AR, N3SD, K3UA, DL6LAU, N3GJ, LU7DW, WM2H)
Donor: Jim Lawson, W2PV Memorial

Europe
M6T (Oprs.: MØMDR, MØBCT, MØCLW, MØHKB, MØBTZ, G4PIQ, MØSDV, G4BUO, GØVJG, MØTGV, G7TWC, G4MJS, GØAEV, GØWCW, G3XLG, GØDVJ, GØJJG, M1ACB, G4ADM)
Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

CONTEST EXPEDITIONS

World Single Operator
TO1J (Opr.: Hideto Takeda, JF2QNM)
Donor: National Capitol DX Association – Stuart Meyer, W2GHK Memorial

World Multi-Op
XT2SZZ (Oprs: S54W, S57L, S58Y, S59ZZ, S5ØA)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

**Awarded to second place finisher*

2018 CQWW DX SSB TOP SCORES

WORLD
SINGLE OPERATOR
HIGH POWER
All Band
CN2CO (RA3CO) ...10,999,890
P4ØT (VE3DZ) 10,978,352
8P5A (W2SC) 10,806,056
VY2ZM (K1ZM).....6,871,680
ZF9CW (K5GO) 5,985,848
UPØL (UN9LW) 5,829,096
CF3A (VE3AT).....5,351,688
TMØT (F4HQZ) 4,865,616
W2RE.....4,502,126
P4ØL (W6LD) 4,464,437

28 MHz
CX2DK 136,729
CA6CGX.....53,648
PY2NA 39,936

21 MHz
CR3DX (OM3RM) ...1,628,172
YW4D (YV1DIG) 1,076,400
9Y4D.....987,420

14 MHz
4M1K (YV1KK) 1,587,131
OH8X (OH6UM) 1,245,108
TM6M (F4DXW).....1,235,234

7 MHz
CT9ABP (OM3BH)...1,056,018
EA5SR 799,106
EI5IX.....661,821

3.7 MHz
UP2L (UA9BA).....609,323
S57AL.....452,374
9A6ØKDE (9A2VR) 138,082

1.8 MHz
NP2J (K8RF).....69,715
SQ7CL 42,559
EW8R.....27,520

LOW POWER
All Band
HI3T.....2,672,504
VC3M (VE3LA).....2,046,369
EK7DX 843,660
N9NB 827,904
EK6SI.....825,907
N4TZ.....767,136
N8II.....736,575
JH1EAQ 686,375
4K6FO.....608,940
HG6V (HA6IAM) 543,904

28 MHz
CA2CEV 46,752
CX8DS 34,750
CE7VPQ 30,243

21 MHz
HK3TK 481,134
PY2CX 389,418
VR2EH (VR2ZQZ) 371,246

14 MHz
4L2M 384,223
UN6LN 314,280
IW1FRU 252,340

7 MHz
JH9URT 133,254
9W2SAF.....101,742
RK3E.....95,817

3.7 MHz
PA2TMS.....122,740
YV4YC 87,904
LY9A.....86,955

1.8 MHz
SNØR (SQ9IAU).....29,106
OE3WMW 15,600
OK1KJO 13,908

QRP
All Band
KR2Q 436,103
OK2FD 340,234
IZ3NVR 248,310
UT5EOX 238,944
JH1OGC 216,828
G4CWH 210,176
JR4DAH 187,620
LZ1DM.....152,992
NP2Q 136,017
IZØFUW 130,207

28 MHz
LU4VZ.....5,320
I5KAP.....2,958
S59GS 1,247

21 MHz
UW5EJX/MM 46,620
TA2IB.....22,579
HG3C (HA3HX) 17,516

14 MHz
CT1BXT.....32,544
RW3AI 26,775
UT1XX 20,724

7 MHz
LY5G.....50,343
LY2NK 28,314
IZ4VQS 25,353

3.7 MHz
OL4W (OK1IF) 17,400
OK6K (OK5IM).....16,484
R2FI.....4,284
OZ6OM 4,230

1.8 MHz
HA1TI.....9,165
HA5NB.....4,995
UR5VAA.....3,367

ASSISTED
HIGH POWER
All Band
KH7XS (K4XS).....8,569,888
ZX5J (PP5JR).....8,140,341
LY7Z.....5,558,220
CR2L (OE2VEL) 5,127,325
KP3Z (NP4Z).....4,905,740
S53M (S53ZO).....4,844,724
EW6W.....4,696,812
VA2WA 4,395,354
N5DX 4,121,142
RT5Z (RA3CW) 3,996,768

28 MHz
LU2DX 63,232
LU1DX 44,370
IT9VDQ.....33,033

21 MHz
CQ3W (DF7ZS) 1,259,503
TM5Y (F8DBF) 750,189
PY2KJ.....712,712

14 MHz
CT9ABO (OM3GI) ...2,103,291
9A9A.....1,495,916
DL2ARD.....1,132,136

7 MHz
US1Q (UW2QU).....847,032
SN3A (SP3GEM).....838,304
HA8M.....789,888

3.7 MHz
OM2VL.....388,314
UW7LL.....369,600
OK8WW 361,666

1.8 MHz
OK7K (OK1BN) 195,917
SP2PIK (SQ2GXO).....92,729
OMØWR.....86,652

ASSISTED
LOW POWER
All Band
P4ØW (W2GD) 3,393,054
NP2P (N2TTA) 1,948,324
TM3Z (F4DSK).....1,881,750
RA3Y 1,488,957
VA3DF.....1,167,974
RL6M.....1,098,197
UA9R 1,037,322
VE3PJ 957,555
UY7MM 887,276
KS1J 869,352

28 MHz
PU2UAF 29,796
9Z4Y 22,554
PU2LEW 9,200

21 MHz
PY2UD 511,784
OK6T (OK1WCF).....355,992
EF8U (EA8DGH).....326,350

14 MHz
E44WE (SP9FIH).....669,824
IK4LZH.....357,018
S52OT.....333,944

7 MHz
9A5Y.....286,800
YT5X.....239,496
OL9R 198,648

3.7 MHz
OL9R (OK6RA) 134,554
YO9FLD 125,939
4L5P 82,758

1.8 MHz
LZ2F (LZ2JE) 39,840
OM5KM 21,655
OL1ØØRCS (OK1AY) ...17,043

ASSISTED
QRP
All Band
VE2IDX (VE3ZF).....791,296
LZ2DF 550,784
RT4W.....298,704
EE3X (EA3KX).....281,144
VA7FC.....140,454
YU1LM.....85,050
9A4OP 72,240
S53NW 62,900
W1JCW.....32,890
IK1ZOF.....25,288

21 MHz
SV1NK 32,965
LZ2A (LZ2DB).....16,698
R4FD.....4,418

14 MHz
IZ3IBL.....137,940
UZ7M (UT9MZ).....134,412
OT6M (ON9CC).....81,756

7 MHz
SQ5CW 39,836
LZ8U (LZ2TU).....11,780
IN3HUU 8,400

3.7 MHz
SP5ES.....9,513
9A4AA/MM 6,615
LZ2DB.....5,084

1.8 MHz
EU1AA 8,262
DL2SAX 1,296

MULTI-OP
SINGLE TRANSMITTER
High Power
EF8R 26,422,692
P33W.....17,552,192
ED8W.....11,255,783
IR4X.....10,641,724
LX7I.....10,222,884
DR1A 9,756,279
9Y4W.....9,464,280
IR4M.....9,201,770
LZ5R.....9,159,290
9K2HN 9,138,978

Low Power
ED9E.....3,846,720
XT2SZZ.....3,420,196
PYØF.....3,378,272
YW5DX.....2,481,368
HI3LT.....2,284,648
VP9I.....2,192,298
A61HA 1,754,472
4U1A.....1,580,031
PR5O 1,145,724
BD7DT 1,129,824

MULTI-OP
TWO TRANSMITTER
D4C.....28,093,569
FY5KE 21,603,000
PZ5K.....19,525,968
PJ4G.....19,112,148
ZF1A 13,465,836
ES9C.....12,192,700
C4A.....10,647,880
9A7A.....8,972,139
HG7T 8,864,184
KP2M.....8,647,458

MULTI-OP
MULTI-TRANSMITTER
CN3A 31,124,906
K3LR.....13,970,364
ZW5B.....12,184,092
V26B.....12,125,232
A73A.....11,908,694
KH6J.....11,757,078
M6T 11,537,636
W3LPL.....11,474,490
PJ2T 11,385,792
LZ9W 11,307,090

ROOKIE
High Power
LZ4AW.....448,200
PY2MET.....383,280
DK2MX 224,316
W3XOX 184,414
K8PK.....153,225
N7WJ.....140,448
W2KU 133,964
W4BBT.....127,600
VU2ZMK 69,600
N4VLK 63,510

ROOKIE
Low Power
LY5XX.....388,614
EF8U (EA8DGH).....326,350
KM4SII.....234,038
R2ARR.....146,965
EW8LM.....139,821
OK1LRD.....115,540
OK1DWH 114,063
R6KVA 104,580
LY5AX.....103,250
9W2SAF.....101,742

CLASSIC
High Power
P4ØT (VE3DZ) 5,539,345
P4ØL (W6LD) 4,464,437
K5ZD.....3,062,108
GD9W (MØDXR).....2,913,428
DJ5MW.....2,291,408
ES6RW (ES5RW)....2,247,434
EU1A.....2,161,540
RW1F.....2,102,792
DJ8OG 1,767,840
WB9Z.....1,696,940

CLASSIC
Low Power
VC3M (VE3LA).....969,173
N9NB 827,904
R7MM.....532,992
MØUTD.....361,935
MM1E (MMØGOR) 358,722
UT7NW 355,165
4E1A 351,400
UA3BL 347,541
DK1KC 344,320
DG7LAN/P 324,612

UNITED STATES
SINGLE OPERATOR
HIGH POWER
All Band
W2RE.....4,502,126
N1UR 3,918,772
W9RE.....3,580,577
K5ZD.....3,062,108
K3ZO.....2,393,226
AA1K.....2,284,206
N9RV 2,040,560
K6XX.....1,699,775
WB9Z.....1,696,940
K4AB.....1,542,525

28 MHz
W5PR 22,320
W4DD 7,130
WB8WKQ.....2,990

21 MHz
N2IC.....135,783
N6KN 50,652
W6TK.....46,800

14 MHz
KU2M.....876,160
N2PP 475,390
K3ZJ 429,632

7 MHz
W7WA 537,040
KM5VI.....40,984
K9CJ 6,550

3.7 MHz
W3BGN.....73,300
K5FUV.....20,999
KØPJ.....5,546

1.8 MHz
AG4W 6,380

LOW POWER
All Band
N9NB 827,904
N4TZ.....767,136
N8II.....736,575
KD9MS 407,480
W6DVS 375,624
N6RV 340,032
K2SDS 309,825
ACØW 261,602
N7IR 259,515
N8GLS 238,350

21 MHz
N5AW 24,708
K8OZ.....23,424
K7XE.....13,176

14 MHz
W2AW (N2GM).....79,310
WA7BNM 57,200
N7FLT 43,860

7 MHz
KR1A (KL7JT).....15,444
KK4AND.....12,033
K4UB 4,256

3.7 MHz
KK4BZ.....6,380
KT3RR 3,818

QRP
All Band
KR2Q 436,103
K8ZT 77,400
NDØC.....76,000
W6QU (W8QZA) 57,200
N4ZAK 4,848
KC8VWM 1,980

14 MHz
WE6EZ.....15,562

ASSISTED
HIGH POWER
All Band
N5DX 4,121,142
K3WW 3,348,900
N3RS 2,878,656
N2SR 2,667,132
AA3B.....2,519,628
K3PP.....2,258,505
AB3CX 2,068,776
NW3Y 2,009,124
N2MM.....1,993,653
NR3X 1,987,856

28 MHz
WO4O 9,576
K4WI.....9,180
N6SS 2,592

21 MHz
N4PN 189,392
N5FO.....135,250
W3EP.....80,028

14 MHz
KVØQ 547,470
N7DD 456,832
W8CZN 413,838

7 MHz
K3EST.....311,125
NJØF.....83,853
K7WP.....30,940

3.7 MHz
W3NO 70,066
K2RR 27,722
WA2BFW 2,025

1.8 MHz
N6RO 1,575
N4RJ.....1,056

ASSISTED
LOW POWER
All Band
KS1J 869,352
N4RA 671,759
W3KB.....513,213
NY6DX 456,041
N4XL.....438,650
W4ZAO 419,604
WT1A.....351,780
K8LY 305,370
KI5MM.....300,829
WT8WV 275,362

21 MHz
WA5WFE.....27,552
K2ZR.....23,298

14 MHz
N4IJ 176,267
N9TGR 138,554
NM2O 96,921

7 MHz
KS4AA 31,395
AAØAI 2,233
N6ABT 2,052

ASSISTED
QRP
All Band
W1JCW.....32,890

14 MHz
K2GMY 2,156

MULTI-OP
SINGLE TRANSMITTER
High Power
K1LZ 5,524,138
W1NA 4,751,900
K5TR.....3,798,400
N3AD 2,950,848
WW4LL.....2,504,295
AA9A.....1,732,332
WØRIC.....1,483,782
W8PR 1,424,029
W7VJ 840,125
KØDDD 746,112

Low Power
N4SVC 651,264
WK1DS 404,250
W4MLB.....398,698
W3ZGD 215,670
K7SS.....206,360
N8YXR 173,229
WA1F 132,492
W8AJT 32,370
AD4XT 25,145
W8DC 22,440

MULTI-OP
TWO TRANSMITTER
K9CT.....5,125,098
N4WW 4,350,456
N1MM.....4,180,761
K1RX 3,260,358
K2LE 2,658,816
KA1ZD 2,605,170
N2RJ.....2,310,000
K2AX.....2,086,326

W2CG 1,910,656
KT7E 1,400,250

MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER

K3LR 13,970,364
W3LPL 11,474,490
KC1XX 11,227,068
K1TTT 4,868,864
WX3B 3,573,948
K1KI 3,548,260
W4AAW 2,382,904
WØAIH 1,917,403
K1KP 1,803,108
NE3F 1,493,115

ROOKIE
High Power

W3XOX 184,414
K8PK 153,225
N7WJ 140,448
W2KU 133,964
W4BBT 127,600
N4VLK 63,510
KE8IVY 50,895
KEØITC 44,811
KE4PLT 39,368
KN4BIT 23,716

Low Power

KM4SII 234,038
W2XK 82,720
KC3INR 73,904
KC3HXF 49,408
K3ABE 40,432

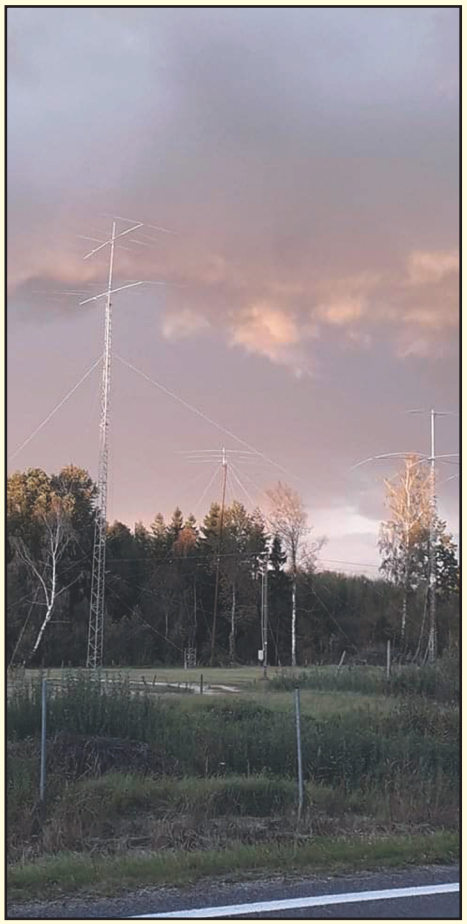
AA4LS 28,381
K2ELV 21,900
AC9TO 20,196
W7AXN 18,139
KG5WZD 15,834

CLASSIC
High Power

K5ZD 3,062,108
WB9Z 1,696,940
K4AB 1,542,525
KQ2M 874,239
K4BAI 638,514
K1RM 588,138
W1WEF 543,312
ND4Y 413,028
AC4G 376,200
K9JF 368,544

Low Power

N9NB 827,904
K1HT 180,648
AC2RL 174,460
N1ALO 153,116
W2CCC (K2CS) 141,372
KC6X 109,248
K3HW 106,368
W8GX 104,652
WD9CIR 91,040
NDØC 76,000



And you wondered why Andy, LY7Z, is so loud on the bands?

can be a challenge to all contest organizers as the administrative headaches increase exponentially with the creation of new classes of operation. So, it's a perpetual balancing act, including taking an honest look at categories that have served their time well but may need change for the future (the never-ending debate about combining assisted and non-assisted single operators comes to mind).

Speaking of assisted operators, the legitimate use of assistance has truly taken hold in contesting and the CQWW is no exception. Although low-power, all-band, single operators continue to strongly prefer operating on their own, overall, we are now seeing these categories converging with 41% of all single-operator, all-band entries being assisted in this year's CQWW SSB contest. Will next year see this group cross the halfway point?

All Band Ops	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	ALL
All Band (U) High	10	125	337	379	28	26	905
All Band (A) High	3	99	476	587	27	29	1,221
All Band (U) Low	13	198	1,057	636	66	57	2,027
All Band (A) Low	10	72	441	300	15	47	885
All Band (U) QRP	1	6	59	12	5	6	89
All Band (A) QRP	1	19	4	3			27
MS High	2	32	145	54	11	11	255
MS Low	5	28	78	22	12	14	159
Multi-2	4	16	47	32	4	9	112
Multi-Multi	1	9	14	18	5	7	54
Checklog	3	52	338	85	5	10	493
All	52	638	3,011	2,129	181	216	6,227

Assisted (A) vs. unassisted (U) entries in the 2018 CQWW DX SSB Contest. All multi-op stations are considered assisted. Unassisted still rules in the single-op all-band low power category, but the number of assisted entries is steadily increasing.

A Look at Overlays

The overlay concept was introduced in the CQWW contest several years ago with the creation of two important new categories: Classic (24 hours of operation) and Rookie (recognition of competitors who have been licensed for less than three years). Needless to say, with over 13% of all submitted logs collectively falling into these overlay groups in 2018, the concept has taken off, particularly in the Classic category, where busy contesters (or maybe those with a little more gray hair) can now compete against each other without the need to make a full weekend commitment. If you are generally time-constrained or know of a new contester, check out this special way to play in the CQWW and give it a try next year.

Overlay	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	ALL
CLASSIC	3	87	439	250	42	35	856
ROOKIE	3	20	137	89	24	17	290
All	6	107	576	339	66	52	1,146

Log Checking Notes

As good fortune would have it for the contest community, the vast majority of competitors who enter the CQWW contest are honest and maintain a high degree of ethical behavior. Indeed, they embody the best of ham radio — honesty, competitive spirit, embracing new technology, pushing propagation to its limits, etc. As with most aspects of life, however, there is always the small minority that makes the job of log checking a challenge. An amazing amount of energy and time is invested in this part of the process, not only to get the results right but to ensure that the "bad guys" are discovered.

In the end, this year's effort was not unlike the past, with particular focus on illegal use of assistance, self-spotting violations, operating "out-of-band," and rubber-clocking/multi-op time violations. And, of course, the elephant in the room remains the group that believes it's acceptable to run illegal power. Claiming that "everyone else does it" is not an acceptable position. While we have put a serious dent in the small but impactful world of cheaters, the real solution will always come from peer pressure. The CQWW Contest Committee depends on each of you to help us ensure ethical behavior will continue to dominate our event. We're counting on you more than ever.

Closing Comments

As I close, I'm thinking about my own experiences in this contest, going back to 1975. I vividly recall my first CQWW contest, making a few hundred contacts from

2018 CQWW DX SSB BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs/Zones/Countries on each band

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CN2CO	117/11/54	687/22/89	1843/32/107	1606/26/91	1863/30/104	61/14/35
P4ØT	97/15/41	723/24/85	1198/30/113	2050/30/107	1596/29/102	583/14/26
8P5A	134/10/27	726/23/78	2364/30/106	2415/29/96	1954/27/105	528/15/31
VY2ZM	443/17/73	512/21/85	987/24/101	2171/29/107	423/22/80	21/6/11
ZF9CW	168/15/44	699/28/80	1422/24/65	1462/26/85	1624/26/80	29/10/19

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
W2RE	148/13/48	325/16/74	556/24/86	1449/25/97	684/21/83	66/9/18
N1UR	58/10/35	251/21/71	451/27/86	1401/29/107	524/22/93	52/7/19
W9RE	46/11/29	223/21/65	451/31/93	1339/34/116	468/25/91	56/8/15
K5ZD	52/11/33	189/18/69	229/20/68	1119/27/101	652/25/89	14/6/9
K3ZO	14/4/9	223/18/70	356/25/80	742/29/95	461/21/77	98/9/22

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

KH7XS	19/10/11	128/24/41	2114/36/97	1625/38/111	1999/33/74	91/9/12
ZX5J	18/10/13	195/24/72	779/34/95	1271/36/115	2244/37/136	266/14/41
LY7Z	496/16/66	943/22/101	1263/35/131	1148/32/115	883/33/120	141/6/28
CR2L	85/11/35	587/18/84	439/22/87	1570/31/112	1816/34/122	21/9/16
KP3Z	63/11/23	582/21/84	1444/30/110	1017/31/81	928/24/85	177/9/14

USA SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

N5DX	64/11/38	205/17/77	410/32/100	1209/31/118	606/26/105	20/7/20
K3WW	57/12/36	187/17/73	277/25/86	1091/29/119	591/27/93	55/9/23
N3RS	46/11/25	184/18/75	287/28/96	706/31/120	585/26/105	56/9/20
N2SR	8/4/6	80/15/46	210/22/82	996/33/122	601/26/101	81/10/25
AA3B	53/9/28	151/16/65	298/27/83	936/28/109	336/26/92	80/9/24

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

EF8R	247/18/77	1245/28/109	2273/34/135	2979/39/144	4000/38/151	94/21/73
P33W	171/14/65	878/25/110	2064/35/133	2529/37/135	2309/36/134	96/13/47
ED8W	96/13/40	543/23/100	1384/33/122	2234/35/133	1550/34/118	32/9/19
IR4X	93/15/72	524/21/101	1897/38/135	2574/38/141	1198/38/138	44/15/44
LX7I	365/16/71	995/20/101	2056/36/135	2258/36/129	1096/35/143	85/18/51

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

K1LZ	91/13/50	250/22/85	645/32/109	1639/30/126	710/27/113	24/10/24
W1NA	53/11/39	181/23/85	644/31/108	1612/33/133	520/25/98	16/8/16
K5TR	31/17/30	138/26/76	1135/36/104	1040/37/134	704/34/117	23/10/19
N3AD	11/6/9	286/22/80	463/33/99	891/31/124	401/27/102	66/9/22
WW4LL	19/9/15	124/19/71	491/27/93	1086/30/111	145/23/89	13/5/13

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

D4C	262/16/73	1337/28/105	1807/34/124	3402/38/133	4262/39/157	542/22/92
FY5KE	108/14/33	848/24/94	2042/34/125	3189/37/134	3655/33/145	352/16/61
PZ5K	88/10/24	1055/29/93	2183/34/121	3018/36/125	3543/33/131	219/16/41
PJ4G	190/16/50	1061/28/97	2087/32/113	2829/35/117	3282/34/117	535/11/18
ZF1A	171/14/27	1203/24/87	2798/29/115	3662/30/112	2177/33/104	76/11/26

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

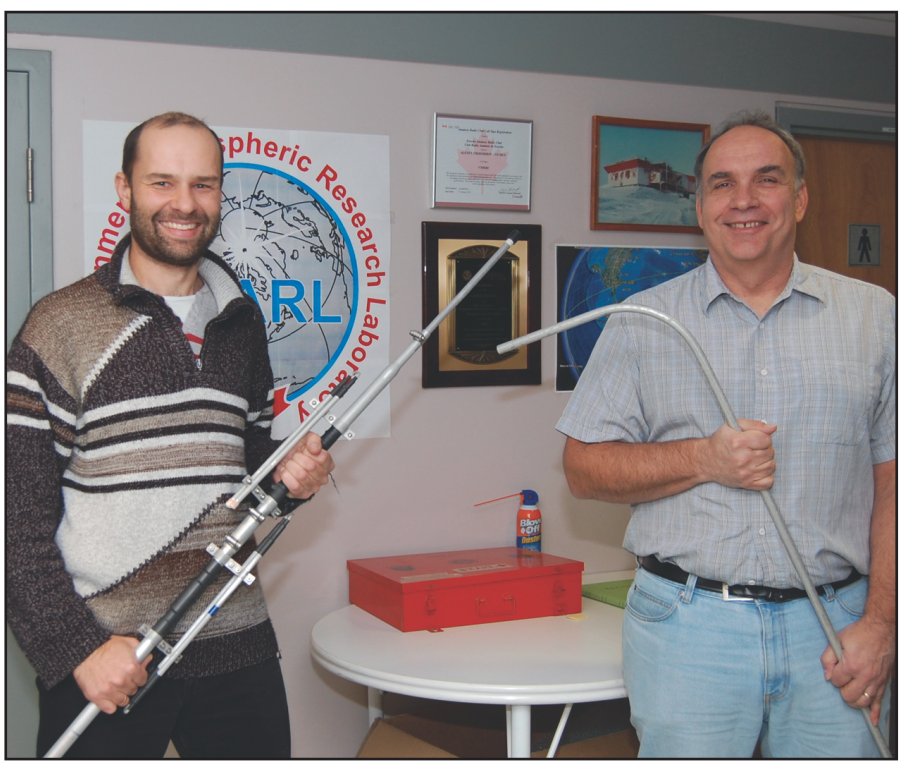
K9CT	73/16/34	263/24/76	693/35/98	1749/37/136	663/29/112	74/9/21
N4WW	34/10/22	257/23/84	893/34/107	1585/35/122	468/28/101	74/9/19
N1MM	44/10/23	263/20/76	363/26/86	1322/31/130	806/25/104	46/9/19
K1RX	41/10/21	129/16/62	393/24/80	1286/30/121	547/27/109	38/5/14
K2LE	41/9/20	244/19/73	358/29/91	957/31/109	398/28/97	6/2/4

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

CN3A	387/17/73	1624/26/108	2981/36/138	3701/37/140	3624/37/149	470/21/84
K3LR	442/23/76	762/28/103	1593/37/133	2957/38/149	1484/31/128	151/12/28
ZW5B	17/6/11	383/28/83	1606/35/127	1643/39/128	2407/34/127	558/19/47
V26B	251/15/48	1206/24/97	1482/30/112	3409/34/122	1697/29/95	307/13/25
A73A	113/12/41	805/27/101	1871/32/119	2105/34/119	1663/33/124	114/11/38

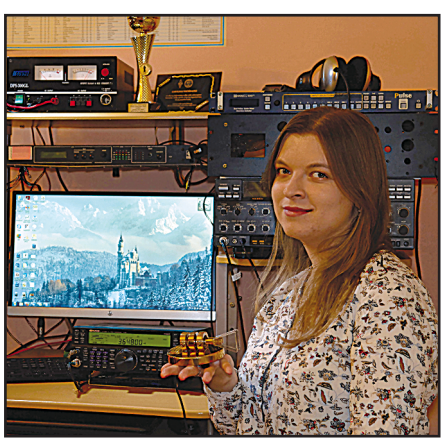
USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

K3LR	442/23/76	762/28/103	1593/37/133	2957/38/149	1484/31/128	151/12/28
W3LPL	350/22/72	511/24/93	1435/35/124	2158/37/142	1508/29/125	207/12/30
KC1XX	306/20/46	644/28/100	1292/34/129	2764/36/142	1072/27/122	218/12/28
K1TTT	90/11/29	366/24/87	656/31/106	1591/30/126	668/26/102	131/11/25
WX3B	85/8/12	213/21/68	605/30/93	1112/32/111	706/27/107	109/10/23



Is this an antenna challenge or two VE guys getting ready for ice fishing at VYØERC?

Long Island, New York, with a tri-bander on my roof and a wire hung in one of those "tall" 30-foot trees in my back yard. Fast forward a few years and I'm standing in the living room of long-time contest director, Bob Cox, K3EST, who had boxes of papers everywhere. Those papers were CQWW logs. As I picked one up, I noticed it was the log of UK9AAN, totally re-copied and con-



Katrina, LY5XX, at the station of LY4L. The castle tower on the computer is not part of the station.

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
TMØT	83/6/29	641/16/73	1478/32/106	1934/27/90	841/25/77	55/7/16
EA5DFV	0/0/0	153/9/47	1119/24/87	1858/27/76	1013/29/77	6/3/5
GD9W	193/11/45	665/16/72	534/15/70	1399/24/85	618/25/88	22/5/13
YPØC	132/7/36	364/9/55	1138/27/82	1086/23/79	1036/33/91	80/9/22
G6XX	167/12/48	493/16/75	586/20/64	938/30/88	535/31/99	24/6/14

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

LY7Z	496/16/66	943/22/101	1263/35/131	1148/32/115	883/33/120	141/6/28
CR2L	85/11/35	587/18/84	439/22/87	1570/31/112	1816/34/122	21/9/16
S53M	100/11/50	652/17/85	870/35/119	1277/35/116	740/34/121	146/14/50
EW6W	219/13/55	451/20/85	1260/33/115	1012/28/89	950/32/114	186/8/36
RT5Z	91/8/39	375/19/88	1425/34/126	1344/35/122	655/32/116	17/4/9

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

IR4X	93/15/72	524/21/101	1897/38/135	2574/38/141	1198/38/138	44/15/44
LX7I	365/16/71	995/20/101	2056/36/135	2258/36/129	1096/35/143	85/18/51
DR1A	228/16/69	825/23/104	1312/35/131	2517/39/145	1050/35/143	87/11/42
IR4M	114/15/69	568/22/101	1835/36/135	2486/38/138	682/35/137	53/16/43
LZ5R	151/13/62	781/27/106	2190/37/136	2146/37/141	1448/36/138	130/17/55

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

ES9C	542/18/78	1529/26/109	2370/34/137	2979/39/147	1799/36/149	246/12/45
9A7A	175/11/55	1442/20/99	1578/35/129	1779/36/121	1524/38/143	211/16/56
HG7T	213/13/61	1425/30/111	1724/38/141	1870/37/134	1345/35/140	218/12/46
SN8B	357/15/62	1414/26/102	1662/36/131	1867/36/123	1123/35/133	203/7/24
PI4COM	355/12/56	979/18/91	939/33/119	1511/39/125	1124/33/132	40/5/18

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

M6T	681/15/70	2057/28/113	2746/38/139	1977/38/128	1177/34/140	263/17/54
LZ9W	759/15/73	1772/33/121	2354/37/142	2472/39/136	1407/37/125	260/17/55
DFØHQ	891/16/72	1761/27/110	2488/37/141	1772/39/147	1139/34/139	237/18/55
OH5Z	466/11/58	1179/25/101	2043/34/127	2014/38/134	859/33/130	45/10/23
OT5A	635/12/64	1293/16/77	2136/31/120	826/38/116	879/33/118	139/12/35

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3

K6XX 1,699,775
K6NA.....865,060
N7ZG.....581,484
W7AT (W7EW).....544,425
W7WA 537,040

Zone 4

CF3A (VE3AT) 5,351,688
W9RE.....3,580,577
*VC3M (VE3LA) 2,046,369
N9RV.....2,040,560
WB9Z 1,696,940

Zone 5

VY2ZM (K1ZM) 6,871,680
W2RE.....4,502,126
N1UR.....3,918,772
K5ZD 3,062,108
VE9CB.....2,970,708

Zone 14

TMØT (F4HQZ).....4,865,616
EA5DFV 2,959,872
GD9W (MØDXR) 2,913,428
G6XX (G4FAL).....2,500,413
DJ5MW.....2,291,408

Zone 15

ES6RW (ES5RW) 2,247,434
OM7RU 1,480,680
OH8X (OH6UM) 1,245,108
UA2FZ.....1,142,532
OK1GTH.....920,185

Zone 16

EU1A.....2,161,540
RW1F 2,102,792
US5D (UT7DX).....1,486,368
R8WF 1,447,506
RD4F 1,412,670

Zone 20

YPØC (YO3CZW) 2,656,841
4Z5LY.....1,258,020
4X2M (4X4DZ) 639,090
YO3RU 429,324
4X1IM.....426,972

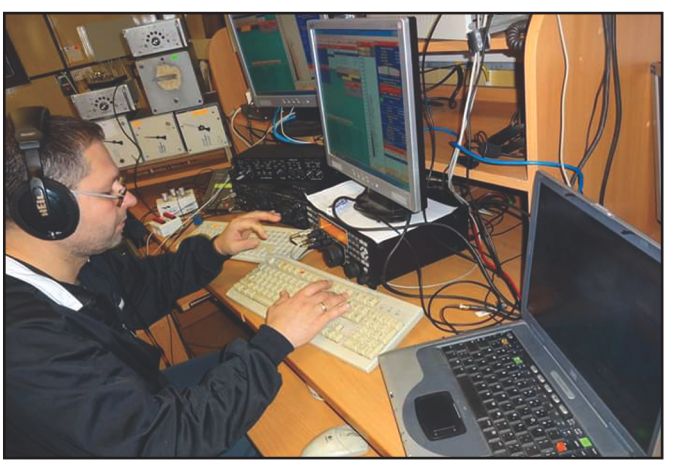
Zone 25

JH4UYB.....3,861,990
JE6RPM (JH5GHM)..3,596,817
*JH1EAQ.....686,375
JH3CUL.....416,245
JA5FDJ.....401,286

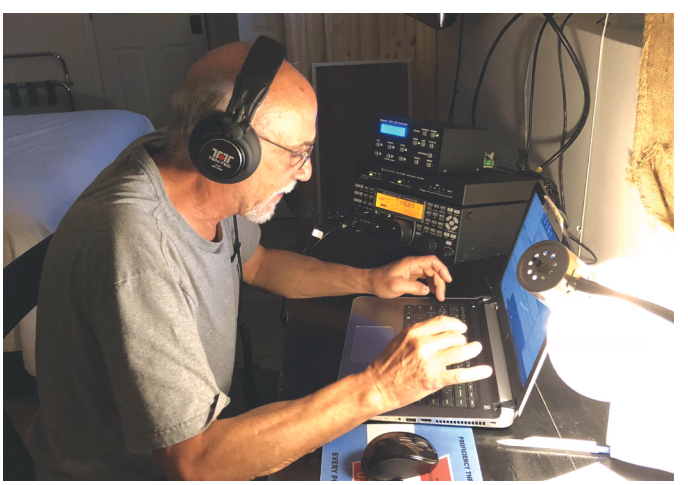
**Low Power*

tained in a hardbound book. I asked Bob what was involved in producing the results I would later see in *CQ* magazine. And now, 40 years later, I sit in this chair as the new contest director … still trying to answer that same question. It seems surreal to type these words and I can only hope that I can live up to the amazing accomplishments and skilled leadership of the past. The CQWW was the best contest in the world back then and it still is today.

Finally, I can't offer enough thanks and accolades to the most dedicated and accomplished contest committee members in the world. As a rookie director, there has been so much to learn and I couldn't have done any of it without the support, expertise, suggestions (and occasional "growls") from some of the smartest and hardest-working volunteers I know. They are not only committee members, but also my respected friends, who include: CT1BOH, José Nunes; EA4KD, Pedro Vadillo; ES5TV, Tonno Vahk; F6BEE, Jacques Saget; GØMTN, Lee Volante; HA1AG, Zoli Pitman; IK2QEI, Stefano Brioschi; JH5GHM, Katsuhiro (Don) Kondou; K1DG, Doug Grant; K1EA, Ken Wolff; K3LR, Tim Duffy; K3WW, Charles Fulp; K3ZO, Alfred A. (Fred) Laun, III; K5ZD, Randy Thompson; KR2Q, Doug Zwiebel; LA6VQ, Frode Igland; LU5DX, Martin Monsalvo; N8BJQ, Steve Bolia; OH6LI, Jukka Klemola; PA3AAV, Gert Meinen; RA3AUU, Igor (Harry) Booklan; S5ØA, Tine Brajnik; S5ØXX, Kristjan

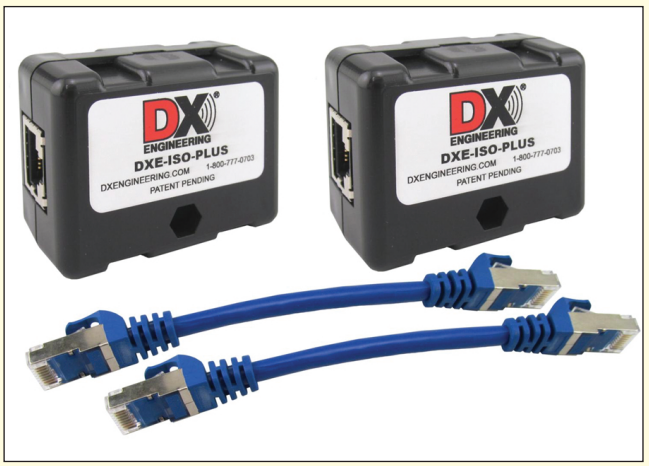


The impressive shack of Andy, LY7Z. It's a good thing he knows what all those knobs and buttons do.



Michael, W3MAS, showing the VP5W team how it's done.

what's new



DX Engineering's ISO-PLUS

The ISO-PLUS Ethernet RF Filter from DX Engineering provides amateur radio operators with a tool to help pull out weak signals and operate more effectively by combating interference that can affect station performance.

Designed and manufactured by DX Engineering, the patent-pending Ethernet RF Filter suppresses electromagnetic interference (EMI) and reduces common-mode radio frequency interference (RFI) to and from Ethernet cables used between personal computers, printers, routers, multiport switches, cable modems, transceivers and other devices. This interference is a typical problem on Ethernet Cat5e and Cat6 cables used for local area network (LAN) connections.

The inline ISO-PLUS Ethernet RF Filter joins two RJ-45 connectors together to fight common-mode RFI and EMI for radio frequencies from below 1 MHz to over 100 MHz, including 160- through 6-meter amateur bands. Installed on either end of Ethernet cables, ISO-PLUS filters mitigate RFI caused to the Ethernet-connected device. At the same time, they reduce interference to radio receivers and other Ethernet devices caused by RFI or EMI generated by an Ethernet-connected device.

The ISO-PLUS also provides common-mode attenuation resulting in reduced or eliminated EMI or RFI generated by power supplies, wall power adapters, touch lamps, appliances, and just about anything else near RJ-45 cables. Interference from these devices can creep into Ethernet cables, which then radiate RF signals that can be picked up by a radio receiver.

The filter supports 10/100 Mbps fast Ethernet and GbE Gigabit Ethernet with no effect on data signal or speed. Each ISO-PLUS comes with one shielded RJ-45 patch cable (about six inches). The filters work with Cat5, Cat5e, Cat6 and Cat6a cables with RJ-45 connectors.

DX Engineering's ISO-PLUS is available now in packs of two or 10 and has a retail price of $49.99 for 2 or $239.99 for a pack of 10. For more information, contact DX Engineering, 1200 Southeast Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278. Phone: (800) 777-0703. Website: <www.dxengineering.com>.

Kodermac; UA9CDC, Igor Sokolov; VE3EJ, John Sluymer; VK2IA, Bernd Langer; YO3JR, Andrei (Andy) Ruse; and YU1EW, Zoran Mladenovic. Space doesn't allow me to summarize what it takes for these guys to compile and publish these results after you push your last F1-key late on Sunday, including several who went well beyond the call of duty with their contributions.

Thanks to all who played in the 2018 CQWW SSB Contest. I'll be looking forward to hearing you this fall: SSB on October 26-27 and CW on November 23-24 (*not* Thanksgiving weekend!) in 2019.

73, John, K1AR

Some CQWW SSB Personal Stories

One of the consistent themes after each CQWW contest is not just the amazing scores made by the winners, but the personal stories of accomplishment that happen time after time. What follows are just a few that paint an amazing picture for you to enjoy.

LY5XX

The 2018 CQWW DX Contest was my first WW as a single operator, operating low power. I was extremely happy to have the opportunity to use Mindaugas Jukna's LY4L station while he was away in Qatar participating as a member of A73A team. The equipment I had included a Yaesu FTDX-5000, AD-2334, dipole for 80 meters and Inverted-L for 160 meters. My goal was 1,200 QSOs and at least 30 hours on air. I was ready as I could be to be a rookie.

At first it was a little bit tricky to find a decent spot for CQing, so I was only able to spend the first few hours at a relatively slow rate of 30 QSOs per hour. The equipment was running smoothly; the operator had other problems, mostly a concern about my sore throat (rookies get those, too!).

Finally, I reached a more productive period — Sunday morning — when my average rate increased to 50+ QSOs per hour. The best hour happened to be 0800Z with 109 QSOs. Of course the highlight for me was reaching my goal on Sunday afternoon, so for the rest of the contest I was testing my limits. It turns out that the most productive band for me was 40 meters with 488 contacts. And, like so many others, I didn't manage to make any contacts on 10 meters.

In total, I spent 32 hours operating and used the remaining hours trying to sleep, which is, of course, impossible, knowing that the contest was going on in the background. In some ways, I felt some remorse by sleeping for more than 3 hours.

My sincere thanks to Mindaugas, LY4L, and others who helped me to prepare for this contest. Although I'm still a rookie in some ways, I exceeded my expectations and will consider this as a milestone for all future CQWW DX SSB contests.

KL7RA

We did good, Rich!

The North Pole Contest Group (NPCG) — KL7RA — operated our first really big Multi-Multi contest since we turned the station into a club operation in honor of Rich Strand (*the original KL7RA, who became a Silent Key in 2015 – ed.*). Our friend put an incredible amount of work into the station. We picked up where KL7RA left off with the 2018 CQWW Contest being the first fruit of all of those efforts. No pressure except to make Rich proud as 7,500 QSOs entered our logs.

Given that this is the very bottom of a very deep sunspot cycle, we couldn't have been happier with our Q totals. As for mults, I guess you "gotta hear 'em to work 'em." When

looking at our QSO totals, particularly on 40, 80, and 160 meters — we were thrilled. As most of you know, it's never easy operating from the Arctic. As for 10 meters — well, that just never happens in this part of the cycle.

A few emails and a chance meeting at Dayton led to our guests, Paul, K1XM, and Charlotte, KQ1F, joining us for the effort. A little W1 mojo never hurts.

So, need Zone 1 in the next one? We're your guys (and gals).

SZ1A

In some ways, SZ1A is a training ground for contesters. Many of the operators in the 2018 CQWW SSB Contest were new to contesting. Although we had three stations on the air, only two of them were HP for the entire contest as the third station used a borrowed amplifier that was not available all the time. The team had a great time, promoting contesting and enjoying making new friends, working nearly 4,000 QSOs.

The SZ1A project is described in detail at <www.sz1a.org>. Over the last eight years, we have tried to build a competitive station. Each year we make some improvements that align with the generous donations we receive from team members and friends. Our goal is to offer the station to anyone who wants to operate a contest. Many Greek and foreign operators, experienced or not, have visited us, either operating or helping improve the station. Some of the more well-known guests have included Zorro, JH1AJT; Don, G3XTT; and Tony, LZ1JZ. We hope to include you in our guestbook some day or hear you on the air from beautiful Greece.

VYØERC

In between our scientific observations of the lower atmosphere, Pierre, VE1RUS; and Alexey, VE3KTB, operated the 2018 CQWW SSB contest at VYØERC as we have for the past few years. VYØERC is located in Zone 2 at 80° N latitude, approximately 100 kilometers from the north geomagnetic pole and is housed at the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) near the Eureka High Arctic Weather Station on Ellesmere Island (IOTA NA-008). Upon arriving in Eureka a few days earlier, we scrambled to get the antennas ready in time for the contest.

This year, we added a vertical to help with 40 meters and get us on 80 meters. It was an improvement, but better antennas were still needed for those two bands. The 20-meter homebrew Moxon rectangle continues to be our workhorse. All antennas have to be removed at the end of every visit or they WILL be destroyed by the weather. The CQWW takes place after the Sun sets for the year on October 20th and at the time the auroral oval starts to show more activity, so conditions are not usually conducive to good results.

Making 1,007 QSOs was our best effort to date. The productive 20-meter openings into Europe both Saturday and Sunday really helped, but we didn't do as well into Japan as we would have liked. We would have done even better except for some unfortunate events on Sunday afternoon when the amplifier got hot enough to melt the bushings holding the tuning capacitor in place, leading to arcing. Overheating is not a term you hear very often in this location. Although the last four hours were tedious and slow as we were limited to S&P while operating barefoot, we didn't stop.

Yes, we will be back, coats and gloves in hand!

(Continued on page 94)